

REMARKS

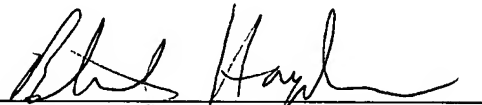
Claims 1-23 are pending in this application of which claim 1 is amended and claims 3-23 are new. Claim 1 is amended to add the word "and" before the last conditional statement to provide better grammatical structure to the sentence. The new claims are fully supported by the specification and do not add new matter. Entry of the amendment to claim 1 and of the new claims is requested prior to first examination.

All pending claims are allowable and Applicants therefore respectfully request a Notice of Allowance from the Examiner. Should the Examiner have questions, the Applicants' undersigned agent may be reached at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

Burton Akira Hipp et al.

Date: December 31, 2003

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert D. Hayden", is written over a horizontal line.

Robert D. Hayden, Reg. No. 42,645

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